

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SCSE-00 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCI-06 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 AEC-11

DODE-00 RSR-01 /107 W

----- 041884

R 090415Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4763

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

COMDT COAST GUARD

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SYDNEY 1900

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NZ, FR

SUBJ: FRI

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING CONSUL FOWLER'S FINAL REPORT
ON FRI INCIDENT IN FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING ZONE.

2. AS REPORTED TO THE DEPT BY TELEPHONE, I ARRIVED
TAHITI EVENING OF SUNDAY, JULY 29, TO BE MET BY
PHILLIPE BERGES, CHEF DU CABINET DU SECRETAIRE
GENERAL DE LA POLYNESIE FRANCAISE, WHO HAS BEEN IN
CHARGE OF ALL PROTESTERS OF WHATEVER VARIETY FOR
THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT. BERGES TOLD ME THAT GORDON
MOODIE HAD SEEN HIS SON ON THE 28TH AND HAD TALKED
TO GOVERNOR ANGELI IN BERGES' PRESENCE. MOODIE HAD
APPARENTLY PERSUADED SON DAVID TO RESCIND HIS
CATEGORICAL STATEMENT THAT HE INTENDED TO RETURN
TO DANGER ZONE, HOWEVER, DAVID WOULD NOT SIGN A
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STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT HE WOULD NOT RETURN TO

ZONE, BECAUSE THAT IS A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE. BERGES FELT THAT THEY WERE MOVING CLOSER TO AN HONORABLE ARRANGEMENT. HE SAID THE FRENCH HAD ALL ALONG WANTED TO SETTLE THE MATTER AMICABLY WITH HONOR FOR BOTH SIDES. THE OFFER HAD BEEN MADE TO REPAIR ANY DAMAGE TO THE YACHT WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN DONE BY THE BOARDING AND ALSO ANY OTHER REPAIR WHICH WAS NEEDED. HE STATED PARENTHETICALLY THAT THE FRI IS AN OLD BOAT AND THE ENGINE CLEARLY NEEDED REPAIR. I ASSURED BERGES I WAS ONLY ON A FACT FINDING EXPEDITION AND NOT THERE TO ADJUDICATE ANY LEGALITIES: THAT WAS FOR PARIS AND WASHINGTON TO WORK OUT. ALL THE HUNGER STRIKERS EXCEPT NICHOLAS STOPPED THEIR STRIKE ON THE 29TH.

3. ON THE 30TH, BERGES ARRANGED FOR ME TO CALL ON THE GOVERNOR, WHO WAS PREPARING TO DEPART FOLLOWING DAY. ANGELI HAD ALREADY TALKED TO MOODIE AND STATED THAT, AS SOON AS THE DOCTOR APPROVED THE DEPARTURE OF THE PROTESTERS IN HOSPITAL IN PAPEETE, THEY WOULD BE PUT ON A MILITARY PLANE TO HAO WHERE THEY WOULD MEET THEIR OTHER COMPANIONS WHO HAD NOT BEEN ON HUNGER STRIKE. THE ORIGINAL ARRANGEMENT WAS FOR THE FRI TO BE TOWED BY THE FRENCH NAVY FROM MURUROA TO HAO WHERE REPAIRS WOULD BE MADE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE CREW. BY THE TIME I CALLED ON ANGELI, HOWEVER, THERE HAD BEEN A SLIGHT CHANGE IN SIGNALS AND THE WHOLE CREW WERE TO BE DELIVERED TO MURUROA TO OBVIATE ANY FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE SHIP IN THE LONG TOW BETWEEN ISLANDS. DAVID MOODIE AND CREW MEMBERS TO WHOM I TALKED WERE VERY SUSPICIOUS OF THIS CHANGE IN OPERATIONS, FEELING THAT IT WAS A PLOY TO PREVENT THEM FROM COMMUNICATING WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ME AND GORDON MOODIE, THE PROTESTERS CONTEMPLATED DEMANDING THAT THEY BE ALLOWED TO COMMUNICATE AT LEAST TWICE A DAY OVER THEIR WORLD-WIDE RADIO FACILITIES. THEY POINTED OUT THAT THE MILITARY CONTROL ALL COMMUNICATIONS OUT OF MURUROA, THAT THERE IS NO CIVIL TELEPHONE OR TELEGRAPH

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AVAILABLE THERE AT ALL, AND THAT THEY HAVE COMPLETELY FREE WORLD-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS OVER THEIR OWN WIRELESS SET ON THE SHIP. THEY WERE CONVINCED AS OF MONDAY NOON THAT THE FRENCH WERE GOING TO TRY TO SILENCE THEM FOR THE PERIOD OF TIME IT WOULD REQUIRE TO REPAIR THE SHIP AND GET UNDER WAY. ADDITIONALLY, ALLISTER BARRY, PHOTOGRAPHER IN GROUP, WANTED TO DEMAND

REPLACEMENT OF ALL FILM AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO
TAKE REPLACEMENT PHOTOGRAPHS.

4. MR. MOODIE AND I HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH BERGES
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT AT 6:00 P.M.
MONDAY EVENING. THE FRENCH CONTACTED MOODIE AND
HAD HIM COME AT 5:30 P.M. BUT WERE UNABLE TO REACH
ME (BECAUSE I WAS AT PAN AM OFFICE, UNKNOWN TO
THEM) MR. CASTELLANI, (CONSEILLER TECHNIQUE AU

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SCSE-00 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCI-06 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 AEC-11

DODE-00 RSR-01 /107 W
----- 041919

R 090415Z AUG 73
FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4764
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
COMDT COAST GUARD
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SYDNEY 1900

CINCPAC FOR POLAND

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NZ, FR
SUBJ: FRI

CABINET DU MINISTRE DES DEPARTMENTS ET
TERRITORIES D'OUTRE MER AT PARIS), MR. COUANAU
(DIRECTEUR DU CABINET DU GOUVERNOR DE LA POLYNESIE
FRANCAISE) AND BERGES WERE PRESENT. ALL THREE
KEPT THEIR SENSE OF HUMOR IN FINE WORKING CONDITION.

THEY SAID THE FRI WAS READY TO SAIL ALREADY AND THAT WORK HAD BEEN DONE BY THE NAVY DURING PREVIOUS WEEK. CREW WOULD ALL BE TAKEN TO MURUROA, SHIP WOULD BE TESTED FOR RADIATION IF THEY SO DESIRED, THEY COULD CHECK OVER ALL THE REPAIRS THAT HAD BEEN DONE, AND WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH PROVISIONS AND WATER TO SAID WITHIN 24 TO 48 HOURS. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS, CAUANAU POINTED OUT THAT EVEN IF THEY WERE SITTING IN PAPEETE HARBOR AS A CRUISE YACHT, THEY UNCLASSIFIED

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COULD NOT USE THEIR RADIO UNTIL THEY WERE OUTSIDE THE POST A CERTAIN DISTANCE (WHICH LATER DEVELOPED TO BE THREE MILES). IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT RATHER THAN BEING A COUPLE OF WEEKS IN MURUROA THEY WOULD ONLY BE THERE ONE OR TWO DAYS, AND THAT THEY COULD TEST THE RADIO EQUIPMENT. GORDON MOODIE COMMENTED TO BE THAT CREW READLly HAD NO CHOICE IN MATTER ALTHOUGH HE WOULD TAKE INFORMATION BACK TO THEM. CASTELLANI NOTED THAT CREW WERE SUBJECT OF LOCAL RESENTMENT BECAUSE THEY WERE HEALTHY YOUNGSTERS TAKING UP VALUABLE HOSPITAL SPACE FROM LOCALS. (WHILE I WAS TALKING TO CREW ON TWO OSSASIONS, POISON PEN LETTERS WERE DELIVERED TO THEM INCLUDING TWO WITH ANNOTATED COPIES OF NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH HAD APPEARED.) HE SAID THAT IT APPEARED "AUX MAUVAIS ESPRITS" THAT FRENCH WERE GIVING SPECIAL TREATMENT TO PROTESTERS BECAUSE OF MR. MOODIE'S FORMER POSITION; HE SAID OF COURSE THAT WAS NOT TRUE BECAUSE THEY WOULD HAVE DONE SAME THING FOR A COAL MINER. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN COOPERATIVE IN THIS MATTER AND THEY MIGHT NOT BE SO HELPFUL IN THE FUTURE.

5. ON THE 31TH ALL OF HUNGER STRIKERS EXCEPT GILBERT NICHOLAS WERE CLEARED FOR DEPARTURE. PETER AND PATCHOULI YEATES DECIDED RETURN TO NEW ZEALAND RATHER THAN CONTINUE ON YACHT, SHE BEING SIX MONTHS PREGNANT. DAVID MOODIE, EMMA YOUNG AND ALLISTER BARRY WERE TO DEPART AT 0800, AUGUST 1, FOR HAO, BERGES PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION TO THE MILITARY AIRPORT. AIR NEW ZEALAND MANAGER GONZ REP, MR. WITHERS, ARRANGED TO YEATES' TRANSPORTATION BACK AND PROVIDED LODGING FOR THEM UNTIL THEIR DEPARTURE.

6. MEDIA REPORTS INDICATE THAT ENGINE OF THE FRI GAVE SOME FURTHER TROUBLE AND THAT ONE OF NEW ZEALAND MEMBERS OF THE CREW WAS BURNED IN A

BACKFIRE. THIS WAS NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF
BERGES EARLIER COMMENTS. BERGES INFORMED ME
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ON AUG 2 JUST BEFORE MY DEPARTURE
THAT FRI HAD ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO DEPART
FOLLOWING DAY, THE 3RD, AND THAT THEY WERE GOING
TO RAROTONGA IN COOK ISLANDS. THE YACHT
RENDEZVOUSED WITH HMNZS CANTERBURY AFTER BEING
ESCORTED OUT OF 12-MILE LIMIT BY THE FRENCH.
EVENTUALLY THEY SAILED BEYOND 72 MILE
LIMIT, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST INFORMATION.

7. COMMENT: I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE GOOD WILL
SHOWN BY EVERYONE AMONG THE FRENCH AND BY
GORDON MOODIE. THE CREW MEMBERS WERE A VERY
DETERMINED GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE, AN INTERESTING
COMBINATION OF IDEALISM AND CYNICISM. THEY
OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T TRUST ANYONE EXCEPT THEIR OWN
GROUP, BUT THEY DO BELIEVE IN WHAT THEY ARE DOING.
THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE MOST
HELPFUL TO ME AS A CONSUL. THE COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICIALS IN PAPEETE PROVIDED COLLECT
TELEPHONIC AND CABLE COMMUNICATIONS AND ASSURED
ME THAT THEY WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE OPEN-
ING OF AN AMERICAN CONSULATE IN TAHITI. THE FRENCH,
ACCORDING TO THE DEPOSITION OF DAVID MOODIE, MADE
IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS IN DEPARTMENTS 149087,
ATTEMPTED TO SEPARATE THE FRENCH MEMBERS OF THE
CREW FROM THE OTHER NATIONALITIES. GENERAL
DE LA BOLLARDIERE HAD A SERIES OF ARTICLES TELLING
HIS STORY RUNNING IN THE PAPEETE PAPERS. I WAS
UNABLE TO GET BACK COPIES OF THE PAPERS BECAUSE
THEY ARE SOLD OUT EACH DAY. THE DEPOSITIONS AND
PHOTOSTATS OF THE CAPTAIN'S LOG ARE BEING FORWARDED UNDER
AIRGRAM. MARSHALL

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